

February 18, 2017

Senator Catherine Osten

Senator Paul Formica

Representative Toni Walker

RE: Inter-district Magnet School Funding: ACES Educational Center for the Arts

Dear Appropriations Committee:

My name is Kathy Garasimowicz and I am a parent of a student who attends ACES ECA. I am writing to support magnet school funding and ECA.

As a public school educator with 20+ years of experience, I strongly feel that the programs and opportunities offered at ECA are as unique and diverse as the students that thrive there. In four short years, I have watched my somewhat reserved daughter grow into a confident young woman and accomplished vocalist -with experiences that took her to venues from Carnegie Hall to Beijing, China.

Among the many reasons why funding should NOT be cut from magnet school- in particular ECA:

1. ECA is a highly diverse learning environment that prioritizes skill development and resiliency
2. ECA uses arts-based learning and arts- infused education to enhance skills in : innovation; empathy; problem-solving; voice; confidence; harnessing failure; and much, much more!
3. ECA receives more national, state and regional arts awards AND honorable recognitions than any other school in the state of Connecticut!

As my daughter, a senior, receives appetences and handsome scholarships from major universities such as St. John's, Suffolk, and La Salle- I have no doubt that ECA had an enormous part in her success. I am forever grateful for the time my daughter spent at ECA, and it is absolutely unimaginable to me that cuts of any kind would even be considered at any state magnet school- in particular ECA.

I invite you to respond with any questions or further information you may need in regards to funding for magnet schools.

Kathy Garasimowicz

Sincerely,

Kathy Garasimowicz

33 Steep Hill Road Seymour, CT 06483